

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01477 081119Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EA-07
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4890
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1477

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, GY, US

SUBJECT: GUYANESE REACTION TO JULY 4 RECEPTION

1. JULY 4 RECEPTION WAS WELL-ATTENDED BY GUYANESE GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION FIGURES. PRESIDENT CHUNG ATTENDED AND GAVE TOAST ON BEHALF OF GUYANA. PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM, WHO HAS STOPPED ATTENDING FOREIGN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS SINCE HIS HEART ATTACK, DESIGNATED FONMIN WILLS AS HIS REPRESENTATIVE. SIX CABINET MINISTERS, THE SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT, THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND SEVERAL OTHER JUSTICES AND A WIDE NUMBER OF OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, UNION LEADERS AND BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED. THREE MINISTERS AND AT LEAST TWO SUB-CABINET LEVEL OFFICIALS WHO DID NOT COME WERE CAUGHT IN A MEETING AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S BELFIELD RESIDENCE. THREE OF THEM TELEPHONED THEIR APOLOGIES.

2. CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE (GDF), SEVERAL OTHER RANKING GDF OFFICERS, THE COMMANDER OF
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THE PEOPLES MILITIA, AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, PLUS POLICE SUBORDINATES, PROVIDED GOOD REPRESENTATION FROM MILITARY AND POLICE. OPPOSITION FIGURES CHEDDIE AND JANET JAGAN ALSO ATTENDED THE RECEPTION.

3. INVITATION WAS SENT TO CUBAN AMBASSADOR IVAN MARTINEZ, BUT HE DEPARTED ON VISIT TO CUBA AND THE

CUBAN CHARGE DID NOT ATTEND IN HIS PLACE. WITH
EXCEPTION OF CUBANS AND THE CHINESE, ALL CHIEFS OR
ACTING CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE ATTENDED THE
RECEPTION.

4. AN ILLUSTRATION OF CURRENT GUYANESE ATTITUDE
TOWARD AMERICANS WAS THAT LEADERS OF A WELL-KNOWN LOCAL
BAND, "THE MUSIC MACHINES" APPROACHED THE EMBASSY IN
ADVANCE TO REQUEST THAT THE GROUP BE PERMITTED TO
PERFORM AT THE EMBASSY'S FOURTH OF JULY PICNIC GRATIS BE-
CAUSE THEY WANTED TO SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION FOR WHAT AMERICA
STANDS FOR IN THE WORLD.

5. OUR GUYANESE GUESTS OBVIOUSLY ENJOYED THEMSELVES
AND TRANSMITTED A DEGREE OF WARMTH THAT HAS NOT APPEARED
PRESENT IN OTHER NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCES. ALL
COMMENTARY THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED SINCE JULY 4 HAS
EMPHASIZED THE EASE AND FRIENDLINESS WHICH
CHARACTERIZED THE INTERACTION BETWEEN AMERICANS AND
GUYANESE AT THE RECEPTION.
BLACKEN

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